

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7735

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMCONSUL ZANZIBAR UNN

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, TZ

SUBJECT: CHANGES IN PARLIAMENTARY ORGANIZATION ORDERED

1. SUMMARY: CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS TO BE IMPLEMENTED BEFORE NEXT AUTUMN'S NATIONAL ELECTIONS WILL REDUCE THE NUMBER OF POPULARLY ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TO LESS THAN ONE-HALF TOTAL MEMBERSHIP OF ASSEMBLY AND STRENGTHEN TANU PARTY CONTROL OVER THOSE WHO REMAIN. REFASHIONING OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN THIS MANNER WILL SEEMINGLY MAKE ASSEMBLY MORE OF A DIRECT ARM OF THE PARTY. END SUMMARY.

2. MEETING IN SHINYANGA WEEK OF MARCH 10, THE TANU NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ORDERED FOLLOWING CHANGES IN PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION:

(A) THE ELECTION DISTRICT WILL HEREAFTER COINCIDE WITH THE TANU (AND ADMINISTRATIVE) DISTRICT, INSTEAD OF HAVING 120 SPECIAL ELECTION DISTRICTS WITH APPROXIMATELY EQUAL POPULATIONS. AS THINGS NOW STAND, THIS WILL REDUCE THE NUMBER OF ELECTED MEMBERS (ALL FROM MAINLAND TANZANIA) FROM 120 TO 83.

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(B) THE NUMBER OF "NATIONAL MEMBERS" IS INCREASED

FROM 15 TO 35. THE PRESENT 15 NATIONAL MEMBERS ARE CHOSEN BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FROM AMONG A ROSTER OF FIVE NAMES NOMINATED BY EACH "NATIONAL ORGANIZATION" DESIGNATED BY THE PRESIDENT (I.E., TRADE UNIONS (NUTA), PARTY'S WOMEN (UWT) AND YOUTH (TYL) AFFILIATES, COOPS (CUT), AND PARENTS' ORGANIZATIONS (TAPA). NOW THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE OF EACH OF MAINLAND TANZANIA'S 20 REGIONS WILL ALSO NOMINATE FIVE CANDIDATES, ONE OF WHOM WILL THEN BE CHOSEN BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. (IN BOTH CASES THE TANU NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HAS THE RIGHT TO REMOVE NAMES FROM THE LISTS OF CANDIDATES.)

3. THESE CHANGES WILL REDUCE THE RATIO OF POPULARLY ELECTED MEMBERS FROM 120:45 TO 83:65 FOR THE MAINLAND AND FROM 120:102 TO 83:122 FOR TANZANIA AS A WHOLE (SINCE ZANZIBAR MEMBERS ARE ALL APPOINTED). THE POPULARLY ELECTED PORTION OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY THUS DROPS TO LESS THAN HALF.

4. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ALSO CALLED NEW NATIONAL ELECTIONS (AS SCHEDULED) FOR NEXT SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER, BUT ONLY AFTER THE PRESENT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY HAS AMENDED THE CONSTITUTION (WHICH IT CAN DO BY TWO-THIRDS VOTE) TO IMPLEMENT THE NEW PROCEDURES.

5. REACTION TO THE PROPOSALS WAS EVIDENTLY NOT ENTIRELY FAVORABLE, FOR THE PARTY PROMPTLY LAUNCHED A CAMPAIGN TO EXPLAIN TO THE PUBLIC THAT THE MOVE IS INTENDED TO STRENGTHEN PARLIAMENT, NOT WEAKEN IT, BY MAKING THE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT A PERMANENT PART OF THE DISTRICT "TEAM", ALONG WITH THE PARTY DISTRICT CHAIRMAN AND THE PARTY DISTRICT SECRETARY (WHO IS, IP SO FACTO, AREA COMMISSIONER). IT HAS ALSO BEEN SUGGESTED THAT AS THE PARTY REPRESENTS THE INDIVIDUAL CITIZEN, THIS ROLE NO LONGER BELONGS TO THE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT.

6. THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, MEETING IN DODOMA DURING THE WEEK OF MARCH 17, APPROVED THE CHANGES IN PRINCIPLE, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WITHOUT PUBLISHED DISSENT, THOUGH THE NECESSARY LEGISLATION WILL ONLY BE PASSED IN THE NEXT SESSION, PROBABLY IN JUNE. SEVERAL MEMBERS CALLED FOR AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF DISTRICTS (AND HENCE OF SEATS TO BE FILLED). AS PARTY HAS ALREADY RECOMMENDED SEVERAL NEW DISTRICTS, THESE DEMANDS SEEM LIKELY TO BE MET IN PART.

7. COMMENT: WHATEVER MAY BE SAID ABOUT STRENGTHEN-
ING PARLIAMENT, THE REAL THRUST OF THE CHANGES IS
TO STRENGTHEN THE TANU PARTY AS THE SUPREME, AND
INDEED ONLY, POLICY MAKING BODY IN THE NATION.
AS HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN SUGGESTED TO US, THE INTENT
SEEMS TO BE TO CONVERT THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY INTO
A SORT OF LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING BODY FOR THE PARTY.
SINCE ASSEMBLY INCREASINGLY UNABLE TO MOUNT SUCCESSFUL
CHALLENGE TO PARTY DECISIONS, THIS MAY AT LEAST SAVE
IT FROM ATROPHY, AND THE CHANGE COULD IN FACT STRENGTHEN
INDIVIDUAL MP IN REGION BECAUSE HE WILL NOW BE INTEGRAL PARTY
OF REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION.

8. LAST WEEK A GROUP OF YOUNG LAWYERS GRADUATING
FROM AN INDOCTRINATION COURSE AT TANU'S KIVUKONI
COLLEGE RECOMMENDED A MAJOR CAMPAIGN TO WEED OUT
ALL LAWS WHICH REFLECT COLONIAL IDEAS AND PRACTICES,
AND TO REPLACE THEM WITH LAWS REFLECTING TANZANIA'S
NEW ETHOS AND SOCIALIST IDEOLOGY. THE GRADUAL
REFASHIONING OF INSTITUTIONS INHERITED FROM FORMER COLONIAL
POWER APPEARS TO BE ONE PART OF THIS PROCESS.
CARTER

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